Case: Spencer Norman, et al v. Camden County, et al

Transcript of Sergeant Brian Fiene

Date: October 21, 2013

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EXHIBIT

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	6		
1	A. Deputy sheriff.	1	A. About four to five months.
2	Q. Okay. Deputy sheriff	2	Q. And you finished the program?
3	A. Yes, sir.	3	A. Yes, sir.
4	Q is that correct?	4	Q. Any other education that you've received?
5	A. Yes, sir.	5	A. Just continuing education since I've been a law
6	Q. Is that above or below the rank of sergeant?	6	enforcement officer.
7	A. My rank is sergeant.	7	Q. Okay. And Camden County, the coverage area for
8	Q. Your rank is sergeant. Okay.	8	that includes how far how far is the coverage that
9	A. Yes, sir.	9	Camden County extends to?
10	Q. And could you please state your age and your date	10	A. I believe it's about
11	of birth?	11	Q. Is it through the lake?
12	A. My age is 44. My date of birth is April 2nd,	12	A. Yes, sir.
13	1969.	13	Q. I'm sorry.
14	Q. Okay. And what is your current height?	14	A. It's about 600
15	A. Six feet three inches.	15	Q. We should probably start Let me Let me just
16	Q. And your weight?	16	state this before you answer the question. Have you ever
17	A. Two hundred thirty-five pounds.	17	taken your deposition Have you ever had your
18	Q. Any changes to your weight since October 4th,	18	deposition taken before, have you sat for a deposition?
19	2011?	19	A. Yes, sir.
20	A. No, sir.	20	Q. Okay. So I'm going to ask you questions. If you
21	Q. Are you married, sir?	21	could wait until I'm finished speaking before you start
22	A. Yes, sir.	22	giving your answers, that way we're not talking over each
23	Q. Any kids?	23	other, especially in a videoconference it can be
24	A. Yes, sir.	24	difficult for the court reporter to record everything
25	Q. And how many kids do you have?	25	accurately if we're both talking at the same time. If
	7		9
1	A. Five.	1	you can also give audible answers such as yes and no as
2	Q. Big family. Would you walk us through your	2	opposed to uh-huh and uh-uh. That way the court reporter
3	educational background starting with high school?	3	can record everything accurately. Is that okay with you?
4	A. I graduated high school in 1987 at Camdenton High	4	A. Yes.
5	School in Missouri. I had two years of vocational	5	Q. Okay. So and I know it's more difficult in a
6	technical school. I went to about a year and a half of	6	videoconference to make sure that we're not cutting each
7	college through Columbia College and then I went in the	7	other off, so I will do my best to make sure I don't cut
8	military, so that would be about it, I guess.	8	you off and I would ask that you do the same for me. You
9	Q. And how long were you in the military?	9	were answering a question about the coverage area for
10	A. Four years.	10	Camden County.
11	Q. And were you discharged?	11	A. Yes. It's about 660 square miles, I believe.
12	A. Yes.	12	Q. And how is the Camden County Police Department
13	Q. And what were the terms of your discharge?	13	set up? What is the structure, basic structure?
14	A. Honorable.	14	A. We have a administrative division, a patrol
15	Q. And what division of the military?	15	division, investigation division, corrections division,
16	A. Marine Corp.	16	court security division, communications division, special
17	Q. Okay. And what were you studying at Columbia	17	operations division. I believe that's everything.
18	College?	18	Q. And how many officers does Camden County employ?
19	A. I was an English major.	19	A. Total employees are around hundred ten. I'm not
20	Q. Any other schooling besides Columbia College?	20	sure of the number of actual commissioned officers
21 22	A. No, sir, not until law enforcement academy.	21	because we have some civilian employees as well.
23	Q. Okay. And which law enforcement academy did you attend?	22	Q. Okay. And where did you work before Camden
		23 24	County as per your law enforcement?
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24 25	A. St. Charles Law Enforcement Academy.Q. How long did that last?	25	A. Linn Creek, Missouri Police Department. Q. Okay. Where is that?

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and he was walking away from Deputy Dziadosz because he

was in the middle of Dziadosz and I. So he was walking

commands for him to stop and for him to put his hands on

towards me at that point and then I began issuing

his head and for him to quit moving away and quit

36 1 Norman when he came into view? 1 resisting, that sort of thing, and --2 2 Q. Okay. Was Officer -- or strike that. A. Yes, sir. 3 Q. And what -- Can you walk me through what you saw 3 Was Mr. Norman speaking at all at that point? Was he responding in any way verbally to either you or 4 at that point and what happened? 4 5 A. As I approached, Mr. Norman and Deputy Dziadosz 5 Officer Dziadosz? 6 where they were coming into sight, it was dark, it was 6 A. I didn't heard -- I heard nothing intelligible 7 7 4:30 in the morning, so the light was flashlights only. come from Mr. Norman addressed to Deputy Dziadosz or I. As I saw them, I could see Mr. Norman walking away from 8 Q. What was he saying? Before he was tasered, was 9 Deputy Dziadosz. Deputy Dziadosz was behind him probably 9 he speaking at all? 10 10 close to 15 feet away. Deputy Dziadosz had his TASER A. He -- He was mumbling, doing some mumbling. He 11 11 was doing a lot of what I described as growling. At one pointed at Mr. Norman and the laser light, the red laser 12 light from Deputy Dziadosz TASER was on and Deputy 12 point the only word that he said that I understood, but 13 13 Dziadosz was continuing to order Mr. Norman to put his they weren't addressed to myself or Deputy Dziadosz, but 14 hands up, to get on the ground, to stop running away, to 14 at one point he stopped walking for a second and looked 15 comply, and Mr. Norman was continuing away from Deputy 15 up at the sky and said something about God or Jesus and 16 the Holy Ghost or something to that effect, but then he Dziadosz. 16 17 17 Q. Was he walking or was he running or jogging, Mr. put his hands down and kept walking away again. 18 Norman? 18 Q. And is that the only thing that you heard that 19 A. He was hurriedly walking. He was walking fast. 19 was intelligible from him, was God, Jesus, Holy Ghost? 20 20 Q. Okay. Away from Officer Dziadosz? A. Yes. O. Did that mean anything to you at that particular 21 A. That's correct. 21 22 Q. And can you describe what Mr. Norman looked like 22 moment? 23 when you first saw him? 23 A. I suspected he was probably under the influence 24 A. He was clothed only in boxer shorts, no shirt, no 24 of narcotics. 25 25 Q. Could you smell any alcohol or drugs when you pants, no shoes. 35 37 Q. Okay. What about his -- Could you see his face 1 1 were in his vicinity before you tased him? 2 2 and his eyes? A. No, sir. I wasn't close enough to smell 3 3 A. I could see his face. I couldn't really see his 4 4 Q. So he -- Mr. Norman started walking towards you 5 Q. So Officer Dziadosz had his TASER drawn and you 5 away from Officer Dziadosz. You at that point had your 6 said the laser was being -- beam from the TASER was on 6 TASER drawn, correct? 7 Mr. Norman's body, the target laser? 7 A. Correct. 8 8 Q. And you were giving him verbal commands? A. I assume it was. I don't know that it was on Mr. 9 Norman's body. I could just see that the laser was on on 9 A. Correct. 10 Deputy Dziadosz TASER. I could see that the red light 10 Q. And what were those commands? 11 was on, so I knew he had the laser on, but where it was 11 A. I told him several times to stop. I told him at 12 pointed, I don't know for sure. 12 least two or three times to put his hands on his head. I told him at least a couple times after that to get on the 13 Q. Okay. So you at that point -- What happened 13 14 after Officer Dziadosz had the TASER drawn and was 14 ground. I don't know how many commands I gave him. 15 continuing to talk to Mr. Norman, what did you do? 15 Probably at least six to eight all together. 16 A. Well, since Mr. Norman was not complying with 16 Q. And he wasn't -- And there was no response by him 17 Deputy Dziadosz's request and orders, as I closed the 17 to any of these commands? 18 distance, I drew my TASER from probably about 15 feet 18 A. That's correct. 19 19 away and I continued to close the distance towards Mr. Q. You said that you could tell he was under the 20 influence of narcotics of some sort, that's what you Norman because I began walking right directly towards him 20

10 (Pages 34 to 37)

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suspected?

A. That's what I suspected, yes.

Q. And did you -- Is that suspicion you had based on

his non-responsiveness, his statement about God and Jesus

Christ -- Well, let's narrow it down. What was your

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50 1 1 Q. Is there a reason why you didn't use a PPC 2 technique? 2 3 A. Yes. Because PPCT teaches you to use their arms 3 4 and I didn't have his arms; they were underneath him. 4 5 5

Q. And so your PPC technique, as part of the training, that allows you to deal with a suspect when you don't have an ability to grab his arms?

A. Basically. I mean, not without -- The PPC handcuffing techniques are -- They're designed for when you can get ahold of at least one arm and then spin around and put one knee on the ground and one knee on their back and hold them down that way and then use leverage on their arm to then get it in position to where you can get a handcuff on it.

Q. And so you couldn't use that because he -- his arms were underneath his body?

A. Correct.

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Q. And Officer Dziadosz was trying to pull his arms -- trying to pull Norman's arms out from underneath Mr. 20 Norman?

A. His left arm, yes.

Q. All right. So how did you eventually -- or I didn't mean to cut you off before. You said you were driving -- You were sitting on his butt and driving him down into the ground with your palm sometimes and

his hands trying to push him back down and neither one of us could push him back down to the ground.

Q. So then what happened?

A. That's when I struck him in the right elbow with my flashlight, trying to break his arm.

Q. Was that your intent, was to break his arm?

A. Yes, sir, it was.

Q. And when you say break, you mean like break the bone?

A. Yes, sir.

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Q. Okay. Is that a technique that the department endorses?

A. If necessary, yeah. Uh-huh.

14 Q. And why did you feel it was necessary to attempt 15 to try to break his right arm at that point?

16 A. Because I was running out of options on how to 17 get him under control and I didn't want to have to kill 18

19 Q. Okay. Had he struck you before you used your 20 flashlight to hit his right arm?

21 A. No, he had not.

Q. Had he struck Officer Dziadosz?

23 A. No, sir.

> Q. So you used the flashlight and struck his right elbow?

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sometimes your arm, correct?

A. Correct.

3 **Q.** Any other techniques that you were using?

A. No.

5 Q. So you never used the prone position technique?

Q. You never took your knee and applied it to any part of his back while he was facing down?

A. No.

Q. Before or after he was handcuffed?

A. No, sir.

Q. Okay. So you're still sitting on his butt and you don't have his arms yet. What happened then?

A. Well, after struggling with him like that for I don't know how long it was, maybe a minute or two or something, we kept telling him to give us his hands so we could handcuff him and to stop resisting. We said those kind of things numerous times. He maintained keeping his arms underneath him and then the next thing of any significance that happened other than that was all of a sudden he did a pushup with me on top of him, and by that I mean he extended both arms completely straight and locked his elbows and did a pushup with me on top of him

23 24 and he was trying to get up and I was trying to push him

back down and Dziadosz was pushing down on his back with

1 A. Yes.

Q. And what happened?

A. Nothing.

Q. He didn't -- His arm was still locked?

A. Yes. sir.

6 **Q.** Still in the pushup position?

A. That's correct. It had no effect.

Q. And then what happened?

A. Basically, we just continued struggling with him for another few seconds and kind of eventually got him facedown on the ground again. I worked pulling his arm trying to pull it out from under him and make him lose his balance on his arms to where he could fall face first back into the ground and that's eventually what we got accomplished and then --

O. While you were struggling though to put handcuffs on him, were there any other officers on the scene at that point besides you and Officer Dziadosz?

A. About that time is when Deputy Watson arrived.

Q. And what did Officer Watson do?

A. She came over and assisted trying to get that right arm around to me so I could cuff it while Deputy Dziadosz was continuing to try and get the left one. And she placed her right knee on his back in order to help keep him down on the ground and we struggled with him

> 14 (Pages 50 to 53)

76 standing, kneeling, besides him, you know, that sort of 1 1 called them on the radio. 2 O. Okay. 2 thing, but they were both at his side monitoring him the A. Then I went to look for my TASER cartridge in the 3 3 whole time. Q. Okay. But you -- Could you observe how they were 4 4 Q. Okay. And did you find it? 5 5 monitoring him? A. Yes. 6 6 A. No, not necessarily. They were just keeping an 7 7 eye on him, basically. What all they did, I don't know. Q. And then what happened? Q. So when you finish your conversation with Officer A. Well, it was while I was looking for it still 8 that Deputy Rutherford arrived. He showed up on the 9 9 Rutherford, what happened then? A. He went back over to where Deputy Dziadosz and 10 scene. I saw him arrive and he stopped and talked to 10 11 Deputy Dziadosz and Watson briefly and then he came over 11 Deputy Watson were with the -- with Mr. Norman and in a short time after that he -- Deputy Rutherford again 12 and talked to me and I don't know what he said to them, 12 called out to me and said, "Brian, I don't think he's 13 but he came over and talked to me and kind of asked me 13 basically what happened. I told him about, you know, we 14 breathing." And I said, "Shit," and I started walking 14 15 had to fight this guy for a while and I had to TASER him 15 towards him, 16 16 and this and that and he was a handful and now he's in Q. Walking towards Mr. Norman? 17 17 custody and we're waiting for the ambulance to get here A. Right. 18 and check him out and I think he then turned and made --18 Q. Okay. And then what happened? 19 A. As I approached them, they were checking him, 19 walked back over to the van then I guess? 20 Deputy Dziadosz and Watson were checking pulses and 20 Q. When you were having that conversation with Mr. 21 Rutherford, how far away from Mr. Norman were you? 21 trying to hear and listen for respirations and that sort 22 22 A. Ten -- Ten steps or so. of thing to see if, indeed, he was not breathing and they 23 23 MR. HENSON: Ten feet, 20 feet? again told me, no, I don't think he's breathing and so I 24 24 A. Well, I say a step. A step is about a foot and a immediately grabbed my walkie-talkie and I told dispatch 25 half or two to feet, I guess, so maybe 15 feet or 25 to tell the ambulance to expedite to the scene. And then 75 77 1 I told Dziadosz to remove the handcuffs from Mr. Norman 1 something. 2 and roll him over onto his back and I told them to then 2 Q. (By Mr. Keane) So you -- When you physically 3 helped drag or pull Mr. Norman into the short grass, was 3 start doing CPR on him at least till the ambulance could he saying anything at that point? 4 4 get there. 5 O. When he was still on his side before he was --5 A. No. 6 **Q.** Was he mumbling? 6 you removed the handcuffs from him and his pulse was being checked by Officer Rutherford and Officer Watson 7 7 A. No. Q. Okay. Could you hear him say anything, any kind 8 8 and Officer Dziadosz, all three of them? 9 9 of -- any words come out of his mouth whatsoever? A. Yeah, I believe so. 10 A. I heard no words at all, no. 10 Q. And was Mr. Norman on his side? 11 A. No. He was on his back, I think, at that point. 11 O. Okay. Could you hear him breathing? 12 A. I couldn't necessarily hear him breathing, no. 12 I mean, they were rolling him over to check on his pulse 13 and things and I couldn't tell you who did what exactly. 13 **Q.** Okay. When -- How long was your conversation Everybody -- They were all checking him, but I know one 14 with officer Rutherford? 14 A. Not very long. Probably 60 seconds or something. 15 15 person checked his neck and one person I think checked his wrist and one person was listening to his -- for 16 Not very long at all. 16 17 17 Q. Okay. And while you were having this respirations and that sort of thing. He was probably 18 checked more than once, truth be known, by -- I mean, he conversation with Officer Rutherford, what was Officer 18 19 was probably checked multiple times in multiple ways, but 19 Watson doing? 20 20 A. Monitoring Mr. Norman with Deputy Dziadosz. They -- Yeah, when they said that, he definitely was not breathing. I said, "Well, roll him over and get the 21 were both still standing there with him. 21 22 Q. So they were standing over him? 22 cuffs off and put him on his back and start CPR," and I 23 23 A. Yeah. Well -told the ambulance to expedite. 24 Q. Standing? 24 Q. And who performed the CPR? 25 A. I believe all three of them did. Deputy Dziadosz 25 A. At different times I think they were either

Spencer Norman, et al v. Camden County, et al 84 82 thinking he was on drugs, I mean, it was kind of the same 1 thing. Just everything he had done and everything he was correct, before this deposition? 1 2 doing and the way he was dressed and the way he was A. That's correct. 2 Q. Does the Camden County Police Department have a 3 acting and it all put together as soon as I walked up 3 definition of an emotionally disturbed person? there, that's kind of what I figured, he was probably on 5 A. Not that I'm aware of. 5 6 O. What does that term mean to you? Q. Would you agree that Mr. Norman was not a 6 7 A. A person who is mentally impaired. 7 burglar? Q. And that could be a mental impairment for a 8 A. No, I would not agree. 9 variety of reasons? 9 Q. And why is that? 10 A. Yes. It could be a mental illness or drug A. Because the definition of burglar is to 10 involvement or -- yes, a number of things like that. 11 unlawfully enter a dealing with the purpose of committing 11 Q. Would you agree that Mr. Norman was emotionally 12 a crime therein, which he had done. 12 13 Q. Is it your understanding that he has -- a suspect disturbed? 13 14 in order to commit burglary has to have the mental A. Yes. 14 Q. Was it obvious to you that he was under the 15 capability to understand what he's doing to actually 15 16 influence of drugs or alcohol? 16 commit burglary? A. I believe he was under the influence of drugs, 17 MR. HENSON: Object to the form to the extent it 17 18 calls for speculation and a legal opinion and improper 18 yes. 19 Q. We kind of covered that before as to why you 19 thought that was. Have you thought any more about why he opinion. 20 A. I wouldn't -- I wouldn't say that. I don't -- I 20 might have been invoking the name of God, Jesus Christ, 21 didn't know for sure what exactly his mental state was at 21 22 the Holy Ghost before you tased him? that point, nor have any way of exactly knowing, so, yes, 22 MR. HENSON: Object to the form to the extent 23 to me he was a burglar. 23 24 that calls for speculation, conjecture. Q. I'm sorry. What was that last part? 24 25 Q. (By Mr. Keane) You can answer. 25 85 83 A. To me at the time, yes, he was a burglar. A. Have I thought any more about why he was saying 1 Q. He was banging on a door, he was speaking 1 2 that? 2 incoherently, correct? 3 3 Q. Yes. 4 A. Correct. MR. HENSON: Same objection. Q. Well, when you arrived, you saw him walking down 4 5 A. No. 5 the street, correct? Q. (By Mr. Keane) Did it take long for you to make 6 A. No. He was walking in a field away from Deputy 6 the determination that Mr. Norman was emotionally 7 7 8 Dziadosz. disturbed after you first saw him that night? Q. In a field. I'm sorry. Right. You never 8 9 A. Is the question did it take long for me to actually saw him attempt to try to break in to any 9 10 realized that or to think that? residence; is that correct? 10 MR. HENSON: Listen to -- Let her repeat the 11 11 A. That's correct. question for him. I don't think he heard it, Ryan. 12 Q. Do you believe that you need to treat emotionally 12 13 MR. KEANE: Sure. I'll rephrase it. disturbed people differently than people that are not 13 14 MR. HENSON: Oh, okay. emotionally disturbed? 14 Q. (By Mr. Keane) At what point do you recall 15 A. At what point? In talking to them? 15 determining that Mr. Norman was a emotionally disturbed 16 Q. When you are trying to -- When you're trying to 16 17 take them into custody? 17 A. As soon as I saw him I kind of figured --18 A. No, sir, I would not agree with that. 18 19 Q. Within seconds of seeing him? Q. So in your experience as a police officer, you 19 20 A. Yeah, within seconds of seeing him. would say that you do not need to treat emotionally 20 Q. I'm sorry. And what personal observation was the 21 disturbed people any differently when taking them into 21 key factor to you that led to that conclusion? 22 22 custody; is that correct? A. I don't know that there was a key factor. It was 23 23 A. That is correct. a totality -- totality of the circumstances. Like I said 24 Q. Have you taken any courses or training on mental

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before, kind of when you're asking what led to me

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